NCA
VOC FOR PGM/FN
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DOLPH HAERING/MUNICH

"EAST EUROPE AND TERRORISTS"

ANNCR: -

COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF EAST EUROPE RECENTLY HAVE BEGUN TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO HELP CAPTURE TERRORISTS WANTED BY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY WEST GERMANY. VOA'S DOLPH HAERING SENT THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

IN THE PAST, SOME OF WEST GERMANY'S LEADING TERRORISTS HAVE TRIED TO HIDE IN COMMUNIST EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WEST GERMAN INTERIOR MINISTER GERHARD BAUM SAID IN A RECENT INTERVIEW THAT HE BELIEVES THE LEFTIST-MINDED TERRORISTS CONSIDER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS AREAS OF RELATIVE SAFETY AND AS OPERATIONAL BASES FOR MAPPING OUT THEIR NEXT ACTIONS. MISTER BAUM TOLD THE WEEKLY "WELT AM SONNTAG" THAT TERRORISTS THINK THE BORDERS BETWEEN COMMUNIST STATES ARE RELATIVELY EASY TO CROSS.

HOWEVER, THIS SITUATION APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED SUDDENLY, FOLLOWING THE ARRESTS OF SUSPECTED WEST GERMAN TERRORISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND BULGARIA. ALSO, WESTERN TRAVELLERS FROM COMMUNIST EAST GERMANY, POLAND, AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA REPORT THAT POLICE THERE ALSO ARE HUNTING TERRORISTS ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION PICKED UP FROM WEST GERMAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA, EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE NOT LINKED TO THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE ORGANIZATION, INTERPOL. BUT DESPITE THIS, AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT NO WARSAW PACT COUNTRY HAS AN EXTRADITION TREATY WITH WEST GERMANY, THEY HAVE INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO CAPTURE TERRORISTS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS. TRAVELLERS HAVE REPORTED THAT POLISH, EAST GERMAN, AND CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER GUARDS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE THE

DESCRIPTIONS OF WEST GERMANY'S FORTY MOST-WANTED SUSPECTED TERRORISTS. AT ONE POINT THE THREE COUNTRIES EVEN SET UP ROAD BLOCKS DURING THE EUROPE-WIDE HUNT FOR THE KIDNAPPERS AND MURDERERS OF WEST GERMAN INDUSTRIALIST HANS MARTIN SCHLEYER.

HOWEVER, SOME WEST GERMAN OBSERVERS FEAR THAT SOME COMMUNIST COUNTRIES MIGHT TRY TO USE CAPTURED TERRORISTS AS BAIT TO PRESSURE WEST GERMANY INTO EXTRADITING PEOPLE IT HOLDS AND WHO ARE WANTED IN THE EASTERN COUNTRIES FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

RECENTLY BULGARIA UNCONDITIONALLY TURNED OVER FOUR SUSPECTED TERRORISTS TO WEST GERMANY WITHIN ONE DAY OF THEIR ARREST. YUGOSLAVIA, HOWEVER, STILL IS HOLDING FOUR SUSPECTED GERMAN TERRORISTS ARRESTED THERE ONE MONTH AGO. BEFORE TURNING THEM OVER TO BONN, YUGOSLAVIA IS DEMANDING FROM WEST GERMANY THE EXTRADITION OF EIGHT CROATION NATIONALISTS WHOM BELGRADE LABELS TERRORISTS.

EAST GERMANY IS SEEKING THE EXTRADITION OF A MAN WHO SHOT TWO EAST GERMAN BORDER OFFICIALS DURING HIS ESCAPE TO THE WEST LAST DECEMBER. EAST GERMANY CALLS HIM A TERRORIST, AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO BARGAIN FOR HIM IF IT SHOULD CAPTURE A WEST GERMAN TERRORIST. CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ON ITS PART, HAS BEEN DEMANDING THE EXTRADITION OF CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS WHO HAVE HIJACKED PLANES TO FLEE TO WEST GERMANY. CZECHOSLOVAKIA CALLS THEM TERRORISTS. WEST GERMANY HAS TRIED, CONVICTED AND JAILED THEM, BUT TENDS TO SEE THEIR CRIMINAL ACTION AS BEING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. BONN BELIEVES THAT IF THEY ARE EXTRADITED, THEY MAY BE FACED WITH THE DEATH PENALTY.

GH/PY